UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, CO 80202-2466
http://www.epa.gov/region08

Ref: EPR-ER

POLLUTION REPORT OIL
Kenco Refinery
Roosevelt County, Montana

I. BACKGROUND

Date:	**October 20, 1999**
Subject:	**Oil Spill Removal @ Kenco Refinery**
Federal Project (FPN#):	**A99031**
OSC Name:	**Steven Way**
Agency:	**EPA**
Unit:	**Region VIII** **EPR-ER** **999 18th Street, Suite 500** **Denver Colorado 80202** **Phone #(303)312-6723**
Party Conducting Action:	**EPA**
POLREP No.:	**Initial POLREP #1**

II. SITUATION

Date of Notification:	**05/04/99 (During EPA CERCLA sampling at the site)**
Date Action Started:	**05/04/99**
Material Involved:	**Jet fuel/diesel oil**
Quantity Discharged:	**Unknown**
Substantial Threat:	**Surface water (Missouri River)**
Resource Affected:	**Ground water and potentially surface water**
Source Identification:	**Storage tanks, underground piping, spills**
Demobilization Date:	**TBD**
Completion Date:	**TBD**

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Description

At the request of the State and EPA (MT Office) to address abandoned drums at the defunct Wolf Point Refinery (aka, Kenco Refinery), Region 8 Emergency Response Program and its START mobilized to the Site on May 4, 1999, to sample drums, tanks, and containers which appeared to contain various hazardous substances such as corrosive substances, ignitable substances, oil, and unlabeled substances. During this investigation, subsurface contamination was investigated in several areas that appeared to be contaminated. Oil was discovered on the water table at the site.

B. <u>Site Description and Evaluation</u>

The Site is located approximately six miles east of Wolf Point on Highway 13, Roosevelt County, Montana. The Site is an abandoned oil refinery approximately four acres in size, which had been in operation from 1965 to 1985. While operating, the refinery produced JP-4 jet fuel, number 1 and 2 diesel fuel, fuel oil, and reformed oil from a single crude topping plant, crude distillation unit, and Merox treating unit. There are two groundwater wells on the Site, finished to approximately 80-84 feet, with a depth to water of 30 feet. The Site is approximately one mile upgradient from the Missouri River.

Kenco is known to have generated two listed wastes: slop oil emulsion solids (K049) and API separator sludges (K051). A complicated history regarding Kenco's regulatory status is reflected in Resource Conservation and Recovery (RCRA) files, but ultimately the surface impoundments were determined to be exempt from RCRA requirements. Therefore, the facility was not subject to RCRA permitting requirements.

According to inspection reports of the Region VIII Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Montana Office, in 1986 Kenco sold the refinery to Stuart and Bottomly. In 1987 the Wolf Point Refining Company purchased the facility and resold it in late 1995 or early 1996. It was purchased to recover scrap metal, but in the process of tearing down the tanks on-site, materials were found to be remaining in the tanks. The materials were removed from all but one tank and placed in three tanks on-site that were used with the boiler facility. These tanks do not appear to be leaking.

The Site also had evidence of various sizes of underground piping - some of which protruded from the ground and one which appeared

to run approximately 200 feet to the last remaining original tank (a black 2500 barrel tank [approx. 100,000 gallons] with an oily bottom).

C. Description of threat or substantial threat

Drums observed during the sampling/inspection contain oil, and the drums are rusting and bloating. A black 100,000 gallon tank at the south end of the facility has oil-stained soil, standing oil, and oil-stained pools of water around the base of the tank. It contains approximately 1 foot of residual oil/tank-bottom sludge. A white steel tank and secondary containment bermed area outside the fenced refining area is extensively covered with oil. There appear to be several partial remains of dead birds trapped in the oil around the base of the tank.

In addition to the tanks and surface contamination subsurface free phase oil product is present on the ground water. The historical river meanders are observable on the historical aerial photographs and the general gradient is toward the Missouri River. The water table is at 30 feet or higher and the river is approximately one mile to the south.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Actions to date

On May 4, 1999, UOS-START was mobilized to the Site to sample containers, tanks, and soil that may contain oil/hazardous substances.

On June 14, 1999, EPA initiated a CERCLA action and mobilized its ERRS West response contractor (CET) to the Site to stabilize, cleanup, and secure on-site storage of hazardous substances in containers and asbestos on the ground. Arrangements for disposal are underway.

The Kenco Refinery Plume field investigation was conducted from September 7 to September 19, 1999. The field investigation included drilling 20 soil borings to depths of approximately 28 feet by hollow stem auger methods to continuously core the entire depth of the borings. Seven of the borings were completed as monitor wells based on the presence of free phase hydrocarbons on the groundwater surface (approximately 4 to 5 feet). The wells were constructed with 2 inch PVC casing and ten feet of screen.

The top of the screen was set approximately 2 to 3 feet above the water table. The wells were developed by surging and typically removing over 100 gallons of fluid from the wells. The relative elevations of the new wells were surveyed with a total station and GPS.

B. Future Plans

Results of the field investigations are being evaluated to determine if the oil contaminated soil and oil on the ground water is likely to reach the river.

C. Key Issues

None at this time.

D. Enforcement

The property owner is cooperating with EPA. The owner was not the operator of the refinery; he purchased the facility for scrap metal recycling. He claims to have no resources to affect a clean up of either CERCLA hazardous substances or oil. After the immediate threats and potential threats at the Site are addressed, EPA will further evaluate and coordinate potential enforcement action under OPA or other authorities as appropriate.

V. COST INFORMATION

The FPN Ceiling which has been approved for this site is $100,000. Costs to date for investigating the oil plume are approximately $50,000.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Oily liquids/soil will be disposed of or recycled in accordance with 40 CFR Standards of Management of Used Oil if further action is taken.